

Office of Governor Haley Barbour
Friday, January 15, 2010, 4:22 p.m. CST
From Buddy Bynum, Director of Communications

I've just participated in a conference call with officials at The White House, National Security Council, and State Department, and can report the following highlights:

- The U.S. government still advises that a contribution of cash to your relief agency of choice is the best way to help right now. Options are listed at www.governorbarbour.com, click on the "Help for Haiti" button.
- Aircraft carrier USS CARL VINCENT arrived off the coast of Haiti today, and its helicopters are helping deliver emergency supplies and map out safe landing/distribution zones inland
- Supply chain being established at airport in Port-au-Prince for emergency resources, international personnel there
- Port heavily damaged, being assessed by US Coast Guard
- USS COMFORT, a Navy hospital ship, will arrive tonight
- Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano has announced "temporary protective status" – basically political asylum – for Haitians living in the US, which essentially protects them against deportation back to the devastated country.

Other Ways To Help

- The State Department has created a special e-mail for people or organizations who have specific items that might be helpful. E-mail address is helphaiti@state.gov; in the subject line, put specifics, such as "donation of clothing."
- For general information, contact www.clintonbushhaitifund.org.
- Specific questions may be e-mailed to public@who.eop.gov.
- There will be many more diverse options for people to contribute in the days, weeks, and months ahead. US government "is in this for the long haul."

MISSISSIPPI ACTIONS

- Mega-kudos to the Mississippi Air National Guard's 172nd Airlift Wing, which was the first to deliver emergency relief supplies in Haiti. The C-17 delivered medical supplies, bottled water, tents, water distribution kits, operating room equipment, small diesel generators, and federal personnel from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Our Guard units are poised for additional missions in the near future.
- Governor Barbour's website is up and running - www.governorbarbour.com, click on the "Help for Haiti button. We are posting new information as it becomes available.
- Thank you to the state agencies that have already posted the Governor's website to their own websites and are helping spread the word about this informational

resource. All of you should post www.governorbarbour.com to your own sites, and check regularly for new postings on "Help for Haiti."